

Each cog interlocks with the others, doing its part to run the machine. Such laws apply to the mechanics of society. When friends of mine complain that government reform is too slow, I tell them that Washington is not unlike a large gear, powerful but slow. If you want to see immediate change, work at a local charity, run for City Council, join the PTA, put your shoulder to the nearest wheel.

American society runs by the motion of its different institutions. Families, businesses, charities, churches, community groups, local, state, and federal governments are interlocking gears that drive America. Burning labor, ingenuity, compassion and faith as fuel, the machine reaps the energies of its citizens to provide for the common good.

Since its inception, America has relied upon the efforts of all of its institutions to care for the needs of its citizens. However, during this century, the brunt of the work has fallen upon the large gear, the federal government, requiring it to provide services once entrusted to other institutions. Overburdened and overused, the federal system has overheated while community, church, business, and family remain under used, free spinning, not fully engaged.

The federal government is doing things it was never meant to do which is why it does not perform efficiently. It sputters and coughs, lacking the flexibility to adapt to local situations, different speeds, and different conditions. Like an ailing car engine it get poor mileage, burning tax dollars and returning only nickels. We are \$5 trillion in debt but not one step further from where we started. With soaring crime, illiteracy, poverty, and illegitimacy, it would seem that we have rolled backward. The war on poverty has failed because it did not engage the whole engine.

In 1994, Congress began the process of overhauling the engine. Together with innovators and mechanics from the private sector and local governments, it is attempting to spread the work of the large gear to the rest of the engine. For example, since the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (welfare reform), states and counties have joined with private agencies and charities to help record numbers of individuals escape welfare dependency. This is not a trial start. These small gears must prepare themselves to undertake the work of the big gear. Ultimately, we must assume that work because we, the people, turn those gears.

The prospect of greater freedom and lower taxes must not leave us idle. Freedom is not free. Statistics reveal that the spirit of volunteerism is growing. It must. In the final inspection, we find that it can no longer be the responsibility of someone else to help our neighbors, to teach our children, to run our communities, to conserve our resources, and to enforce ethics and decency in our enterprises. It is ours. The day has passed when we could mind our own business and just take care of our own. This country is our business. It is our own. We must man the crank and turn the gears.

Mr. Speaker, it is the resourcefulness of the American people that made our country so strong. Giving power back to the people is the best way to continue the tradition of excellence established so long ago in this great Nation.

HONORING THE THOMAS J. LAHEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, in Greenlawn, NY, which has recently received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award by the Department of Education. The school will be honored at a ceremony on November 6 with Education Secretary Richard Riley.

The Thomas J. Lahey Elementary has taken many innovative steps to involve the entire community in improving the quality of education for its 962 students. Volunteers throughout the community assist in a variety of tasks from reading to children to providing computer instruction in the classroom. The school also works in conjunction with local businesses to further the growth of both the community and the students. For example, for National Book Week, a local supermarket donated more than 800 grocery bags which students used to create a drawing and write a summary of their favorite books. These bags were distributed throughout the town of Greenlawn. This unique partnership between school and community should serve as a model for other schools who are trying to do more for their students in a time of declining budgets. The partnership also reminds us all of the role we in the community need to play in bettering our Nation's schools.

Much of the school's success can also be attributed to the work and dedication of its principal, Dr. Janet Perrin, who can often be found reading to children and participating in classroom instruction. Under her leadership, parents, students, and teachers have been challenged to give more of themselves to better both the school and the community.

The school has taken important steps in increasing the children's access to the Internet and the World Wide Web. At the same time, the school is working with the community to teach students the importance of the arts in our society. The Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School truly embodies the ideals of creativity and innovation. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly dynamic institution.

TRIBUTE TO LIMA ESTATES AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACTS, INC.

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respectful tribute to the Adult Communities total Services, ACTS, Inc., on the 25th anniversary of the opening of the first of its 15 retirement communities in 1972. Lima Estates, since its subsequent construction in 1979, has upheld the highest standards that ACTS demands.

Six thousand individuals are residents of the 15 ACTS lifecare retirement communities in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Florida.

Since its creation in 1971, ACTS has been the leader in lifecare, combining a wide range of services and amenities to meet changing health care needs at any level: from fully independent living, to home health care, to assisted living and skilled nursing care. The obvious advantage is that seniors can be assured of receiving the exact level of care they need in one setting, usually without having to be separated from a spouse, friends, or family. Throughout its 25-year history, ACTS has been the preeminent leader of lifecare.

Since day one, Lima Estates has remained a haven for seniors and a great provider of lifecare. Beautiful woodlands, rolling hills, and graceful colonial style architecture welcome you to this 54-acre site. They hired only the best, highly trained employees available and have remained alert to advances in health care and to the challenging needs and expectations of its residents. Lima Estates is proud of its affiliation with ACTS and hopes that their continued partnership to provide the premier lifecare in the Nation will continue well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Lima Estates and ACTS as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. Their formidable record of providing the best quality lifecare available has improved and invigorated the lives of so many. I am proud to have such an important and respected organization in my district.

HONORING ARTHUR J. GLATFELTER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE INSURANCE IN- DUSTRY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Arthur J. Glatfelter. On November 7, 1997, Mr. Glatfelter will be recognized for 50 years of service in the insurance industry.

Mr. Glatfelter entered the insurance business in 1947 as a solicitor; 4 short years later he opened his own insurance agency. Today the Glatfelter Insurance Group has more than 370 associates throughout 8 satellite offices in the United States and Canada. This agency has grown to become one of the 10 largest privately owned agencies in the country.

Over the years, as his agency has grown, so have his commitments to our community. Community service and an eagerness to help others are values which have guided Mr. Glatfelter in his personal and professional life. Through his generosity and his desire to give back, he has made a difference in the lives of countless York County residents.

Art Glatfelter is a shining example of our American way of life; his devotion and tireless work on behalf of those in need have and will continue to meet the growing needs in our great Commonwealth and the York community. Mr. Glatfelter is one of the good people who makes a difference in our society.

I recall a phrase from an anonymous author: "Those who can give even a little have the sense of full participation in a great neighborly understanding." Mr. Glatfelter has given much more than "a little" and has clearly established himself as a great friend of compassion, warmth and understanding.